



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION •  
Office of Acquisition and Real Property Services  
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(916) 327-7302

Ruth Coleman, Director

February 28, 2006

Mr. Alex Tynberg  
The Trust for Public Land  
116 New Montgomery Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
San Francisco, California 94105

Dear Mr. Tynberg,

Alex

California State Parks (CSP) is pleased to work with the Trust for Public Land (TPL) and the many valued desert area stakeholders to acquire and provide effective stewardship of the Desert Cahuilla/Truckhaven (DCT) property, located adjacent to Anza-Borrego Desert State Park (ABDSP) and Ocotillo Wells State Vehicular Recreation Area (OWSVRA), in Imperial County. As you know, this is a complex project that will require ongoing collaborative management activities between ABDSP and OWSVRA staffs. To facilitate this process, the following strategies have been identified which, I believe, will successfully transition the project into CSP ownership and stewardship:

- Acquisition funding elements are currently being worked out: use of Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Trust Fund sourced monies is being explored as a potential source for the additional acquisition funding currently required to close the existing funding deficit.
- No additional General Fund sourced monies are available to assist in the operation and maintenance of this area; an operational strategy will be developed that is funded primarily by the OHV Trust Fund. It is expected that staff, related support activities, resources, and equipment will be funded via this mechanism.
- The Acquisition transaction required to bring this property into CSP ownership is considered Categorically Exempt under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, Section 15316. Subsequent land-use decision making is subject to further consideration consistent with CEQA, Public Resources Code (PRC), CSP policies, and other governing measures as applicable.
- Several natural, cultural, and recreational-based studies already have taken place on the DCT property; more survey work needs to be done to better understand and protect this property's unique scenic, ecological, archaeological, historical, geological, and paleontological features, while also allowing for sustainable and compatible motorized and non-motorized recreational activities. Towards this end, CSP commits to a systematic inventory of the above-mentioned features and related elements as appropriate.
- CSP will incorporate an early and meaningful consultative role by TPL's main project partners, including the Native American Land Conservancy, Torres



Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians, Desert Protective Council, and the Anza Borrego Foundation, in the development of the DCT management plan. CSP also will seek input from other regional interest groups and user-based organizations and individuals.

- CSP will seek the most appropriate classification/designation of the DCT property consistent with the PRC and funding source constraints. As part of this classification/designation process, alternatives will be weighed including, but not limited to, addition of the entire or partial acreage into ABDSP and/or OWSVRA, or designation of the entire or partial acreage as a separate CSP unit.
- Actual land use decision-making, such as designation of public use areas and routes, types and numbers of allowable recreational vehicles, etc., will take place as part of a deliberate public management planning process, subject to the appropriate level of CEQA review and in compliance with the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division, Wildlife Habitat Protection Program and soil standards guidelines as applicable. The CEQA review and public management planning process will be initiated as soon as practicable following CSP's acquisition of the DCT property. It is expected that long-term operational and stewardship-based decisions regarding management responsibilities on the part of ABDSP and/or OWSVRA staff will be determined as part of the findings from this process.
- Regarding the above-referenced management planning process, recognition and consideration will be given to the existing ABDSP, State Lands Commission, and Anza Borrego Foundation property ownerships to ensure the entire area receives comprehensive and cohesive management direction.
- The public management planning process will include consideration of designation of appropriate use areas and routes for vehicular travel and other identified public uses.
- In the interim period between the completion of the DCT acquisition and prior to establishment of the above-referenced management plan, CSP will ensure that all applicable environmental protection laws, regulations, and orders are complied with; established off-highway motor vehicle recreational activities will be continued and managed in a manner consistent with all applicable environmental protection laws, regulations, and orders for the protection of the DCT property's unique scenic, ecological, archaeological, historical, geological, and paleontological features; CSP will embark upon enforcement and educational efforts to inform the public that the DCT property has been acquired by CSP and will be managed in accordance with all applicable environmental protection laws, regulations, and orders; further, public health and safety measures will be initiated as needed in the public interest.

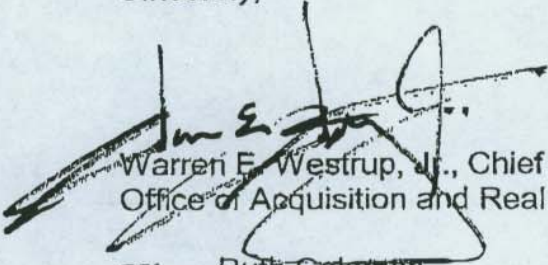


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I hope I have been able to convey the strong sense of commitment that CSP has to the unique DCT acquisition. CSP looks forward to working with TPL and the desert communities as we look for ways to protect this area for present and future generations.

Please feel free to call me at (916) 327-7300 if you have further questions.

Sincerely,



Warren E. Westrup, Jr., Chief  
Office of Acquisition and Real Property Services

cc: Ruth Coleman  
Daphne Greene  
Phil Jenkins  
Tony Perez